

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 820
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
UDKFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 2871
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4930

E.O. 11652: GDS
AGS: PINT, SP; PFOR, SP, UR
SUBJECT: GOS AIDES INTERPRET SOVIET ATTACK ON CARRILLO

REF: MADRID 4849

1. DURING A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION JUNE 28 (SEPTTEL) WITH A PRINCIPAL SUAREZ AIDE AND THREE OF HIS STAFFERS, THEY PROVIDED EMBOFFS WITH THEIR READING OF THE REASONS FOR AND IMPACT OF THE RECENT "NEW TIMES" MUGGING OF PCE SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO. SUAREZ' AIDE ADVANCED AS ONE POSSIBILITY THE BYZANTINE THEORY THAT THE ATTACK WAS CALCULATED TO HELP CARRILLO, SINCE THAT IN FACT WAS ITS EFFECT. BUT HE ALSO WONDERED, IF THAT WERE THE CASE, WHY THE SOVIETS HAD NOT MOUNTED THEIR OFFENSIVE BEFORE THE ELECTION (IN ANY EVENT, HIS STAFFERS DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS THEORY AND HE QUICKLY DRIPPED IT).

2. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS VIEW (WHICH MAY REFLECT THINKING AT THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT LEVELS) THAT CARRILLO PROBABLY WAS THE LIGHTNING ROD FOR AN OUTBURST DIRECTED AT ALL THREE EURO-
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COMMUNIST PARTIES AND, TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT, THE EASTERN EUROPEAN CP'S. ONE OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS EXPANDED ON THIS THEME TO INCLUDE AFRICA, WHERE HE SAW THE SOVIETS BY IMPLICATION REAFFIRMING THEIR COMMITMENT TO AND SUPPORT FOR "CLASS STRUGGLE" IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD.

3. THEY ALL AGREED THAT THE "NEW TIMES" ATTACK WOULD STRENG-

THEN CARRILLO'S POSITION, AS THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND RANK AND FILE RALLIED TO SUPPORT HIM IN THE FACT OF THIS OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. WHILE THEY ASSUMED THERE WERE PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PCE AND THAT THERE WAS SOME DISSATISFACTION IN PCE RANKS OVER THE PARTY'S MEDIOCRE ELECTORAL SHOWING, NEITHER FACTOR WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. CARRILLO WAS IN THE SADDLE.

4. INTERESTINGLY, THEY SAID THEY ASSUMED "SOME" PCE FIGURES WERE SINCERE IN THEIR PROFESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT THAT INDIVIDUAL SINCERITY COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE TRANSLATED INTO DEMOCRATIC CREDIBILITY FOR THE PARTY AS A WHOLE. MOREOVER, IF THE PARTY EVER DID TAKE POWER DEMOCRATICALLY, THE CHANCES WERE ALL TOO GOOD THAT THOSE COMMITTED DEMOCRATS WITHIN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD SOON BE OUSTED BY OTHERS WITH A TERMINAL CASE OF LENINISM. STABLER.

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